2012 SEP 12 (2010) 07 OFFICE (2011)

Allen West For Congress 735 S. Colorado Avenue Suite 9 Stuart, FL 34994

August 29, 2012

Anthony Herman General Counsel Federal Election Commission 999 E Street, NW Washington, DC 20463

Re: Complaint Against The Coalition of Americans for Political Equality (CAPE) PAC

Dear Mr. Herman,

This complaint is filed pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(1) by a representative of Allen West For Congress against The Coalition of Americans for Political Equality (CAPE) PAC, its Chairman, Jefferey Loyd, its Secretary, Nicholas Spears, and its Treasurer, Margaret Berardinelli, for violations of 2 U.S.C. § 441h(b).

Background

Congressman's West's campaign committee was informed of an August 13, 2012 press release entitled, "CAPE PAC Is Working to Get Out The Vote in Florida." (Attached as Exhibit A). CAPE PAC is registered with the FEC as "Coalition of Americans for Political Equality." The press release proclaimed that CAPE PAC "launched Get-out-the-vote (GOTV) campaigns . . includ[ing] local TV advertisements, voice broadcasts, social media, search placements, and targeted videos . . . to educate voters about [Allen] West" and to get-out-the-vote for Congressman West. *Id.* The press release urged readers to "visit CAPE PAC's support website[] for [Congressman West] at www.voteforwest2012.org." *Id.* In this release, CAPE PAC's Jefferey Loyd is quoted: "We are doing quite a bit to help th[is] impressive candidate[] secure victor[y] in" the August 14th primary election. *Id.*

The link provided in the press release directs to the website, <u>www.voteforwest2012.org</u>, which presents a thinly veiled attempt to pass off CAPE PAC's website as Congressman West's campaign website. CAPE PAC's website includes the stylized logo, "ALLEN WEST for Congress 2012" in large print in the banner atop the page and in large print in the lower portion of the page. (Attached as Exhibit B). Also included in large print on a red button, is a

"DONATE" link which brings the viewer to the donation page including the "ALLEN WEST for Congress 2012" logos as on the previous page and a profile image of Congressman West. (Attached as Exhibit C). The page includes the following solicitation in large print, "JOIN CAPE PAC'S CAMPAIGN TO HELP ELECT ALLEN WEST IN 2012. WITH YOUR HELP, TOGETHER, WE CAN WIN THE FURTURE FOR AMERICA!" Id.

In small type at the top of the webpage is the notation, "A candidate support website funded by CAPE PAC." The bottom of the webpage features generic disclaimer language below another stylized "ALLEN WEST for Congress 2012" logo. *Id*.

Everything about this webpage, from its domain name ("Vote For West 2012") to its use of a stylized "Allen West for Congress 2012" logo, is designed to create the impression that the visitor is viewing Congressman West's own campaign website.

Congressman West is not the only victim of this scheme. The press release noted above also includes a link to www.capepac.org where viewers can link to CAPE PAC's "Candidate Support Websites." (Attached as Exhibit D). This page includes a list and profile of 34 federal candidates, including Congressman West, along with a link to an individual donation page foe each candidate listed. Id. Each of these donation pages are designed on the same template, which includes a conspicuously placed, stylized banner logo similar to "ALLEN WEST for Congress 2012," but using that particular candidate's name. Id. The individual donation pages also have domain names, for linking directly, that are equally as misleading as www.votewest2012.org to make viewers believe they are contributing directly to a campaign. Id. CAPE PAC's model is quite similar to AotBlue – except that CAPE PAC is not a conduit for contributions.

CAPE PAC's solicitations containing Congressman West's name (or any of its other activities, for that matter) are not authorized by Congressman West, and CAPE PAC is in no way affiliated or associated with Congressman West's campaign committee. CAPE PAC is simply using Congressman West's name to raise funds.

The Coalilion of Americans for Political Equality (CAPE PAC)

CAPE PAC is registered with the Commission as a non-connected political committee. The organization lists an address at 1776 I Street NW, 9th Floor, Suite 90031, Washington, DC 20006.

The committee's July 2012 quarterly report shows year-to-date contributions of \$572,437.99. Interestingly, the July 2012 quarterly report also includes a strikingly large year-

to-date total for refunds of contributions, \$62,000. This figure indicates that nearly 1 out of every 10 contributions made to CAPE PAC is ultimately refunded to the contributor.

There is reason to believe that these refunds are made to individuals confused by the solicitation materials of CAPE PAC. An individual explained how he was a victim of CAPE PAC's confusing candidate support page, and how he mistakenly made a contribution to another candidate listed on that page, along with Congressman West. In an August 22, 2012 post on the "Power Line" website, the author detailed how he, an experienced political reporter/blogger, was misled by CAPE PAC's website, including the link to Congressman West's donation page, to believe that he was making a contribution to another candidate's campaign directly. (Attached as Exhibit E). The author apologized to his readers for linking to that page In error and further explained his efforts to correct the mistake, including to refund the contribution he thought he was making to directly to a campaign, rather than to CAPE PAC:

UPDATE: I've corrected the donation link for the [other candidate's] campaign. The earlier link was to a PAC called [CAPE PAC]. It got my donation. I apologize for the error. I've also spoken with a representative of CAPE... The PAC is willing to refund contributions made by readers who used the link I initially provided. I have not requested a refund, but it's quite understandable that readers might want to.

Exhibit E.

The confused donor also included a link to an article on www.investorplace.com entitled, "Is New GOP Super PAC A Scam?" CAPE PAC's solicitation materials are nearly identical for all 34 candidates it claims to support, including Congressman West. These individual candidate donation pages are clearly misleading enough to confuse donors into believing they are contributing directly to a campaign and to trigger a refund rate of nearly 10% of all contributions.

In fact, refunds of individual contributions amounted to more than 10% of the disbursements CAPE PAC made in the quarter included in the July 2012 report. The July 2012 quarterly report also included disbursements of "Director Fees" to the Chairman, Jefferey Loyd, and to the Secretary, Nicholas Spears. The remaining disbursements include public relations costs, presumably to place the August 13th press release, and a large expenditure to Google for online advertising.

Virtually all of the group's reported disbursements go to operating expenditures that consist of online advertising, "directors fees" to the Chairman and Secretary, and public relations, presumably for placement of press releases like the one included herein as Exhibit A. The group is simply a fundraising vehicle that refunds over 10% of its most recent quarter's

contributions to misled donors. It stands to reason that far more than 10% of contributions would be refunded if 100% of contributors were aware that they were not donating directly to Allen West For Congress.

Applicable Law

Under 2 U.S.C. § 441h(b), "No person shall – (1) fraudulently misrepresent the person as speaking, writing, or otherwise acting for or on behalf of any candidate or political party or employee or agent thereof for the purpose of soliciting contributions or donations; or (2) willfully and knowingly participate in or conspire to participate in any plan, scheme, or design to violate paragraph (1)." The same language appears in the Commission's regulations at 1† C.F.R. § 110.16(b).

As the Commission previously explained, "[s]ubsection (b) was intended to address the Commission's inability under the pre-BCRA statute to pursue enforcement actions against persons or organizations not associated with a candidate who engage in fraudulent solicitation of funds." Factual and Legal Analysis in MUR 5385 at 6 (Feb. 4, 2005). For years, the Commission requested an amendment to Section 441h "to prohibit fraudulent solicitation because contributions that people believed were going for the benefit of the candidate were diverted for other purposes, harming both the candidates and the contributors." *Id.* at 8.

Legal Analysis

CAPE PAC's website and links to other solicitation materials, including individual donation pages for 34 federal candidates, are intentionally designed to blur the line between CAPE PAC and Allen West's own campaign committee, Allen West For Congress. These solicitations prey on civic-minded citizens who are led to believe that their contribution may actually be used in support of Allen West, and who presumably have no idea that CAPE PAC engages primarily in fundraising that ultimately pays for little more than consulting fees and further fundraising efforts.

In the attached solicitations, specifically the donation page for Allen West included as Exhibit C, CAPE PAC clearly presents itself as "acting for or on behalf of [a] candidate... for the purpose of soliciting contributions." CAPE PAC claims to solicit funds so that it may act for Congressman West, on behalf of his re-election efforts.

The solicitations distributed by CAPE PAC are similar in nature to the materials at issue in MUR 5385 (Groundswell Voters PAC). In that matter, the Commission voted unanimously to find reason to believe that the respondent violated Section 441h(b) "by mailing a fundraising letter requesting contributions to fund a grassroots effort to benefit [Richard] Gephardt's

Presidential campaign." Factual and Legal Analysis in MUR 5385 at 1. The respondent in MUR 5385 claimed that funds raised would be used "to help propel Dick Gephardt to the Democratic nomination and on to the Presidency in 2004." *Id.* at 2. In MUR 5385, the Commission concluded that the solicitations at issue "were misleading and could have led reasonable people to conclude that the Gephardt Committee authorized the communications or was involved in generating the fundraising solicitation." *Id.* at 8.

CAPE PAC's scheme of nearly identical individual candidate donation pages give the clear impression that the donations are being made on the candidate's campaign website, and would logically go directly to the candidate's committee. The solicitation page for Congressman West urges viewers to "JOIN CAPE PAC'S CAMPAIGN TO HELP ELECT ALLEN WEST IN 2012. WITH YOUR HELP, TOGETHER, WE CAN WIN THE FURTURE FOR AMERICA!" That direct plea for donations is included along with the stylized "ALLEN WEST for Congress 2012" large-print logo conspicuously placed at the top and bottom of the donation page. That logo combined with CAPE PAC's individual candidate donation pages which consist of misleading domain names, such as www.voteforwest2012.org, make clear that CAPE PAC's scheme is designed to confuse and mislead civic-minded citizens to believe they are donating directly to candidates like Congressman West.

A reasonable person could easily conclude that the language used in CAPE PAC's solicitation materials is either from Congressman West's campaign or that the solicitor is working with the West campaign. Neither is the case. Indeed, one individual contributor – a political reporter/blugger – who attempted to contributed to one of CAPE PAC's "supported" candidates has written about being misled by this scheme. In fact, he was misled by the exact same candidate support page of CAPE PAC no which Congressman West is included. See Exhibit D. Further, the fact that CAPE PAC has refunded over 10% of its contributions in the last quarter makes this misleading scheme even clearer. Why would so many contributors seek a refund? The most obvious explanation is that they discovered their contribution did not go to the intended recipient.

Conclusion

CAPE PAC seeks to profit from the name and reputation of Congressman Allen West. CAPE PAC claims that funds raised will be used on Congressman West's behalf, to aid his reelection efforts, but the record strongly suggests that CAPE PAC does virtually nothing other than fundraise and pay its directors, and public relations consultants. CAPE PAC's activities are damaging not only to Congressman West, but also to the many individuals who contribute to CAPE PAC under the assumption that they are actually helping a candidate they support. Instead, they are being fleeced. There is simply no accounting for the number of contributors

who never request a refund because they were never made aware that their contribution did not go directly to Allen West for Congress.

We ask that the Commission find a violation of 2 U.S.C. § 441h(b) and put an end to the CAPE PAC's fraudulent and unauthorized use of Congressman West's name.

Sincerely,

Tim Edson

Campaign Manager

Allen West For Congress

The above and foregoing is sworn to, and is based upon information and belief of the undersigned, Tim Edson.

Tim Edson

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF florids

: SS.

County of Markin

On the O day of Sold 2012, before me, the undersigned Notary Public, personally appeared Timothy Color, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that s/he executed the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and seal the day and year as above written.

Notary Public

Commission Expires:

PALLAS CROUSE Netary Public, State of Florida Commission# EE 3848 My comm. expires June 24, 2014

Exhibit A

press release

Aug. 13, 2012, 11:17 a.m. EDT

CAPE PAC Is Working To Get Out The Vote In Florida



PR Newswire

United Business Media

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13, 2012 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ — CAPE PAC is Helping To Educate Voters and Get Out The Vote For The GOP's West and Donalds The Coalition of Americans for Political Equality PAC, having endorsed Congressman Allen West and political grassroots leader Byron Donalds, has launched Get-out-the-vote (GOTV) campaigns focused on the Tuesday, August 14, 2012 primaries in Florida. Get-out-the-vote (GOTV) efforts include local TV advertisements, voice broadcasts, social media, search placements, and targeted videos.

CAPE PAC sims to educate voters about West and Dottalds and help to GOTV for both candidates. The organization is also working to help voters find their local polling places. Congressman West faces Martin County Shariff Robest Crowder in the Republican primary. West moved north to the newly created 18th Congressional district, after his district was changed, in an affort to be re-elected to the U.S. House this year. Byron Donalds is running for a change to represent Florida's 19th Congressional district in the U.S. House of Representatives against six other candidates, including Chauncey Goss, Paige Kreegle, Trey Radel, and John Davidow.

CAPE PAC's Chairman Jeff Loyd said: "We are doing quite a bit to help these two impressive candidates secure victories in their primaries this Tuesday. Congressman Allen West is a great American who has already made an impact with his conservative spirit, and Donalds is just the eart of rising GOP star that the party needs."

CAPE PAC has been putihing out hashtags #VoteAllenWest and #VoteDonalds on Twitter. CAPE PAC's television spots can be found online for West tiere: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSvC1SmDsAM and for Donalds here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_EMX9YEaXM.

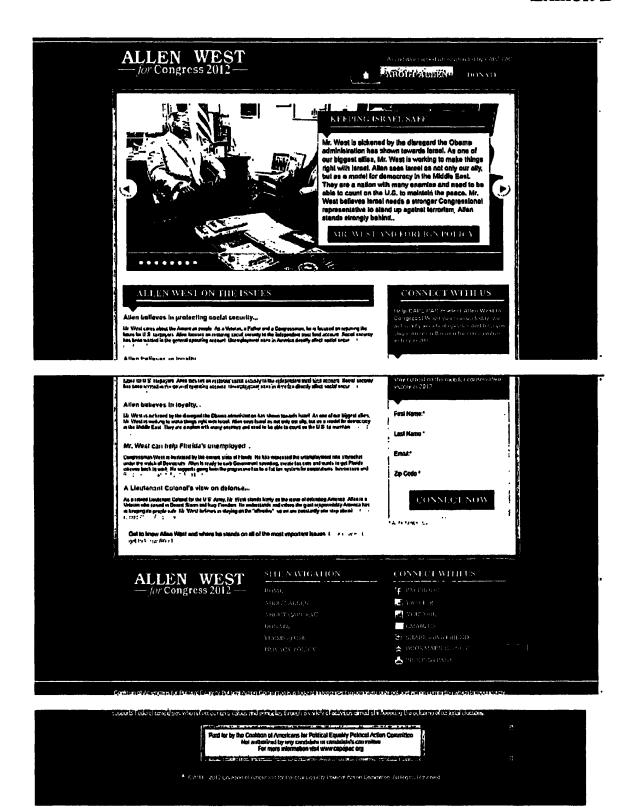
Allen West served 22 years in the United States Army, serving in several combat zones such as in Operation Desert Storm and in Operation Iraql Freedom, where he was a Battalion Commander in the Army's 4th Infantry Division, and later in Afghanistan. He received many honors including a Bronze Star, three Meritorious Service Medals, three Army Commendation Medals (one with Valor), and a Valoreus Unit Award. As a reember of the 112th Congress, Allen sits on the Small Business and Armed Services Committee. Byron Donalds was a commercial analit officer in banking and a portfolio mentiger in financial services, forsising throughout his professional career on providing certainty and reducing financial risks. He hopes his experience will help to start solving America's current debt and spending problems. Donalds serves as Chairman of the Board for Child Evangelism Fellowship of Collier County.

The Coalition of Americans for Political Equality Political Action Committee (CAPE PAC) is a non-profit political organization dedicated to restoring conservative values in the politicians elected to represent all citizens of the United States of America. Through the utilization of tools in the CAPE PAC advocacy center, our goal is to assist an informed and active citizenry in their drive for citange in the political landscape this November and heyond. To livern mere abast Congressman Allan West and Byren Donalds, please visit CAPE PAC's

support websites for each candidate at www.votewest2012.org and www.byrondonaldscongress.com . For more information about CAPE PAC, visit www.capepac.org .

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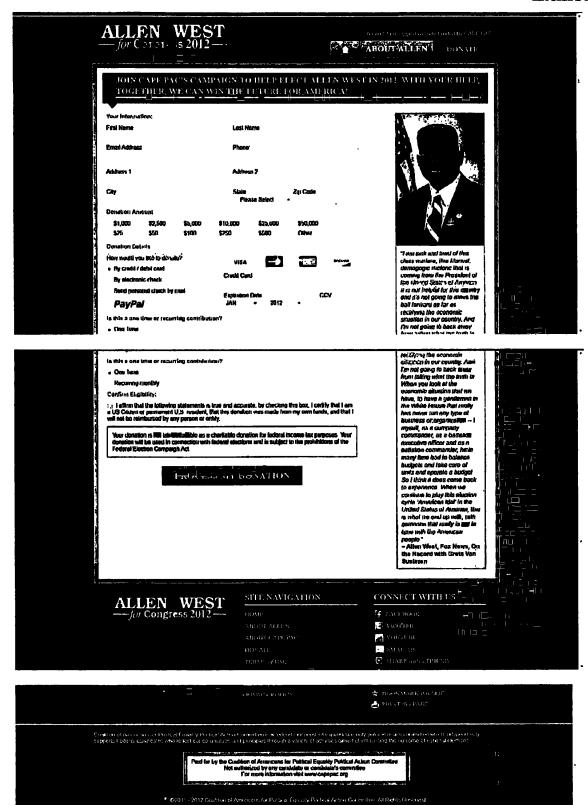


Exhibit D

Follow @capepac 96.4K followers

Like

42,671 people like this. Sign tio to see what your friends





WEBSITE NAVIGATION

SPECIAL PROJECTS CANDIDATE SUPPORT WEBSITES PRESS AND COMMUNICATIONS TELEVISION MEDIA

CANDIDATE SUPPORT WEBSITES // OVERVIEW

Our candidate support campaigns are focused on a simple -- but powerful -- two phase approach: Phase 1 -- Build the largest base of support for a particular candidate, nationwide, as possible; and Phase 2 - Activate that base of supporters to work with our tools to get out the vote for that candidate, and any other candidate running for office that we support in their particular district or state. These campaigns begin online through internet advertising and then expand into email, television, and live advocate outbound calling. All of our activities are focused on continuing to spread the word about our candidates and to generate votes come Election Day.

The following is a list of the candidates whene are currently supporting, organized by office, alleto, and district. This list will continue to grow at we work toward our goal of defeating President Obama and his agenda. We recognize the need for overwhelming majorities in both houses of Congress if we are to repeal these failed policies and restore Conservative values in D.C. in the years to cesse.

For more information on a particular candidate support website, please click on the image or links next to the leage for each candidate support campaign you are interested in learning more about.

CANDIDATE SUPPORT WEBSITES // CANDIDATE LIST



Chadidate: Allen West

Running For: U.S. House

Representing: Florida - 18th Dist.

The Issues:

Get The Details

Donate:

Contribute Now

Main Site:

Visit Our Support Site



Candidate:

Bob Corker

Running For: U. S. Scnate

Representing: Tennessee

The Issues:

Get The Details

Donate:

Contribute Now

Main Site:

Visit Our Support Site



Candidnte:

David McKinley

Running Fer: U.S. House

Representing: West Virginia - Dist. 01

The Issues:

Get The Details

Donate:

Contribute Now

Main Site:

Visit Opr Support Site



Candidate:

Ánn Wagner

Running For: U.S. House

Representing: Missouri - Dist. 02

The Issues:

Gct The Details

Donate:

Contribute Now

Main Site:

Visit Our Support Site

Candidate:

Dave Camp

Running For: U.S. House

Representing: Michigan - Dist. 04

The Issues:

Get The Details

Donate:

Contribute Now

Main Site:

Visit Our Support Site



Candidate:

Dean Heller

Running For: U.S. Schate

Representing: Nevada

The Issues:

Get The Details

Donate:

Contribute Now

Main Site:

Visit Our Support Site



Candidate: Denny Rehberg
Running For: U.S. Senate
Representing: Montana

The Issues: Get The Details

Donate: Contribute Now

Main Site: Visit Our Support Site



Candidate: Eric Cantor
Running For: U.S. House

Representing: Virginia - Dist. 07

The Issues: Gct The Details

Donate: Contribute Now

Main Site: Visit Our Support Site



Candidate: Fred Upton
Running For: U.S. House

Representing: Michigan - Dist. 06

The Issues: Gct The Dctails

Donate: Contribute Now

Main Site: Visit Our Support Site



Candidate: John Buchner
Running For: U.S. House
Representing: Ohio - Dist. 08

The Issues: Get The Details

Main Site: Visit Our Support Site

Contribute Now



Candidate: Ted Cruz
Running For: U.S. Scnate

Representing: Texas

Donate:

The Issues: Get The Details

Donate: Contribute Now

Main Site: Visit Our Support Site



Candidate: Jeb Hensarling
Running For: U.S. House
Representing: Texas - Dist. 05
The Issues: Get The Details

The Issues: Get The Details

Donate: Contribute Now

Main Site: Visit Our Support Site



Candidate: Ed Royce
Running For: U.S. House

Representing: California - Dist. 39

The Issues:
Donate:

Get The Details
Contribute Now

Main Site:

Visit Our Support Site



Candidate: Erik Paulsen
Running For: U.S. House

Representing: Minnesota - Dist. 03
The Issues: Get The Details

Donate:

Contribute Now

Main Site:

Visit Our Support Site



Candidate: George Allen Running For: U.S. Senate

Representing: Virginia

The Issues:

Get The Details

Donate:

Contribute Now

Main Site:

Visit Our Support Site



Candidate: Heather Wilson
Running For: U.S. Senate
Representing: New Mexico
The Issues: Get The Details

Donate: Contribute Now

Main Site: Visit Our Support Site



Candidate: Tom Latham
Running For: U.S. House
Representing: Iowa - Dist. 03
The Issues: Get The Details
Donate: Contribute Now

Main Site: Visit Our Support Site



Candidate: Jeff Flake
Running For: U.S. Senate
Representing: Arizona

The Issues: Gct The Details

Donate: Contribute Now

Main Site: Visit Our Support Site



Candidate: Josh Mandel Running For: U.S. Senate Representing: Ohio

The Issues:

Get The Details Donate: Contribute Now

Main Site: Visit Opr Support Site



Candidate: Kristi Lynn Noem Running For: U.S. House

Representing: South Dakota - Dist. 01

The Issues: Donate:

Get The Details Contribute Now

Main Site: Visit Our Support Site



Candidate: Mitt Romney Running For: President Representing: America

The Issues: Get The Details Donate: Contribute Now

Main Site: Visit Our Support Site



Candidate: Orrin Hatch Running For: U.S. Senate Representing: Utah

The Issues: Get The Details Contribute Now Donate:

Main Site: Visit Our Support Site



Candidate: Pete Hoekstra Running For: U.S. Senate Representing: Michigan

The Issues: Donate:

Gct The Details Contribute Now

Main Site:

Visit Our Support Site



Candidate: Rick Berg Running For: U.S. Senate Representing: North Dakota The Issues: Get The Details

Donate:

Contribute Now

Main Site: Visit Our Support Site



Candidate: Kevin McCarthy Running For: U.S. House

Representing: California - Dist. 23

The Issues: Donate:

Get The Details Contribute Now

Main Site: Visit Our Support Site



Candidate: Michele Bachmann

Running For: U.S. House

Representing: Minnesota - Dist. 6 The Issues: Get The Details

Donate: Contribute Now

Main Site: Visit Our Support Site



Candidate: Nan Hayworth Running For: U.S. House

Representing: New York - Dist. 19

The Issues: Get The Details

Donate: Contribute Now

Main Site: Visit Our Support Site



Pat Tiberi Candidate: Running For: U.S. House Representing: Ohio - Dist. 12

The Issues: Get The Details Donate: Contribute Now

Main Site: Visit Our Support Site



Candidate: Peter Roskam Running For: U.S. House Representing: Illinois - Dist. 06

The Issues: Get The Details Donate: Contribute Now

Main Site: Visit Our Support Site



Richard Mourdock Candidate: Running For: U.S. Senate

Representing: Indiana

The Issues: Get The Details Donate: Contribute Now

Main Site: Visit Our Support Site



Candidate: Robert Dold

Running For: U.S. House

Representing: Illinois - Dist. 10

The Issues: Get The Details

Donate: Contribute Now

Main Site: Visit One Support Site



Candidate:

Spencer Bachus

Running For: U.S. House

Representing: Alabama - Dist. 06

The Issues:

Get The Details

Donate:

Contribute Now

Main Site:

Visit Our Support Site



Candidate: Roger Wicker

Running For: U.S. Senate

Representing: Mississippi

The Issues: Get The Details

Donate:

Contribute Now

Main Site:

Visit Our Support Site



Candidate: Steve Stivers

Running For: U.S. House

Representing: Ohio - Dist. 15

The Issues: Get The Details

Donate:

Contribute Now

Main Site:

Visit Our Support Site

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Paid for by the Coalition of Americans for Political Equality Political Action Committee and is not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. Coalition of Americans for Political Equality Political Action Committee is a federal independent expenditure-only political action committee which independently supports Federal candidates who reflect our core values and principles shrough a variety of activities aimed at influencing the outcome of national elections.

© COALITION OF AMERICANS FOR POLITICAL EQUALITY POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE 2010 - 2012.

Exhibit E

@POWERLINEUS

E-MAIL US

SHARE:

EMAIL

PRINT Tweet

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POSTED ON AUGUST 22, 2012 BY PAUL MIRENGOFF IN 2012 ELECTION, SENATE

HOW ABOUT SOME GOOD NEWS ON THE SENATE FRONT?

With the Missouri Senate race now trending Democratic, we Republicans can use some good news on the Senate polling front. Fortunately, some exists.

First, Tommy Thompson, now the Republican nominee in Wisconsin, leads Democrat Tammy Baldwin by 54-43 Rasmussen poll. Thompson is a Wisconsin political powerhouse, and good bet to move that seat into the Republi fold.

Second, Scott Brown leads Elizabeth Warren in Massachusetts by 49-44 in Masschusetts, according to PPP. That the first thing close to daylight I've seen between these two candidates in a while. The race, however, should still regarded as a toss-up.

Third, and most surprisingly, Republican Pete Hoekstra <u>leads</u> incumhent Democrat Debbie Stabenow in Michiga by 48-46 in a survey taken by a company called FMW. This is the same outfit, and the same sample, that has Romney leading Obama in Michigan. I think we should wait for more polling before getting excited about Hoeks prospects.

Fourth, in Montana, Power Line Pick Six candidate Denny Rehberg leads incumbent Democrat Jon Tester by 47in the <u>latest Rasmussen poll</u>. This seems to be the first poll of this race in about two months. The result is consist with previous Rasmussen polling of the race.

On the negative side of the ledger, Ropublican Counic Mack trails incumbent Democrat Bill Nelson in Florida by substantial margin — 47-40 — according to Rasmussen. The polling of this race has produced significant fluctuations, but the most recent Quinnipiac poll also has Nelson up by 7 points.

With Missouri and possibly Florida slipping away, a Rehberg in Montana victory becomes a critical piece of any scenario in which Republicans win control of the Senate. If you would like to contribute to the Rehberg campaign you can do so here.

I just did. It's a good way to relieve that Akin feeling.

UPDATE: I've corrected the donation link for the Rehberg campaign. The earlier link was to a PAC called Coalitic of Americans for Political Equality (CAPE). It got my donation. I applogize for the error.

I've also spoken with a representative of CAPE, the PAC to which I originally linked. Its representative says that contributions will be used to support Rehberg, but through its efforts, not those of the Rehberg campaign. The Pris willing to refund contributions made by readers who used the link I initially provided. I have not requested a refund, but it's quite understandable that readers might want to.

You can contact the PAC to request a refund or to obtain more informatin by calling 202-640-1566, or you can er steve@capepac.org. The PAC's website is www.capepac.org. You can learn more about its practices relating to obtaining donations through the internet here.

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